THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) High velocity in the river associated with high discharge, continuous rain, strong wind with high turbulence and foggy weather are the main reasons for suspension of discharge observation at Farakka site during the uncontrolled peak monsoon season. Further, these observations are not required for sharing of Ganga Waters between India and Bangladesh, during monsoon period.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The question does not arise in view of reply to (c).

**Hazardous substance in ground water**

3223. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States including Uttar Pradesh are badly affected by the presence of arsenic and other hazardous substances in ground water;

(b) if so, the details of such areas/States and the reasons therefor;

(c) the level of substances found in the ground water as compared to permissible WHO standards;

(d) the funds allocated, released and utilized by the State Governments during last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the corrective steps takeft to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has reported occurrence of arsenic in ground water from certain parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Assam. Other contaminants of groundwater are fluoride, lead, cadmium, chromium and manganese. As per information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has conducted survey of arsenic contamination of ground water in 51 districts of the State with assistance of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The survey has revealed the arsenic problem in 1018 habitations and other quality problems in 6377 habitations in the State.

(c) Average level of arsenic reported in Uttar Pradesh is 0.50 mg/1 as against the maximum permissible limit of 0.01 mg/1 prescribed by World Health Organisation (WHO).

(d) and (e) The Department of Drinking Water Supply, under the Ministry of Rural Development, provides financial and technical assistance to the States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. State-wise and year-wise position of funds released by the Department of Drinking Water Supply under ARWSP is given in the Statement (*See* below).

As per information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the funds allocated by them for improving the quality of water during the last three years and the current year are indicated below:-

| Year | Amount allocated (Rs. in crore) |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 64.91 |
| 2007-08 | 118.42 |
| 2008-09 | 175.00 |
| 2009-10 | 274.30 |

The steps taken by the Government to check ground water contamination include:-

(i) Exploration conducted by CGWB to find out ground water sources free from Arsenic contaminants. CGWB has drilled 21 exploratory wells in arsenic affected areas of the State.

(ii) Technical guidance provided by CGWB to the State agencies in tackling the problems of water quality and capacity building of personnel of State Drinking Water Supply agencies.

(iii) Mass Awareness Programme and Water Management Training Programme in arsenic affected areas to educate the people for the purpose.

(iv) Financial and technical assistance provided to States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms.

In addition, State Government of Uttar Pradesh have undertaken various mitigation measures in arsenic affected areas, which include provision of piped water supply, installation of arsenic treatment plants, etc. Similarly, in the State of West Bengal, the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has taken up different short term, medium term and long term measures/schemes utilizing both groundwater and surface water. Measures taken by Government of Bihar for tackling quality problems include, testing of water samples, marking the affected structures as unsafe for drinking use, construction of deep bore wells (upto 125m depth) fitted with hand pumps to tap the arsenic free deeper aquifer.

**Target to provide water**

3224. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set any target to provide water to another 16 million hectares in the 2007-12, Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status and progress achieved in the matter so far in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Five Year Plan Document (2007-12), envisages creation of